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**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
DALLAS DIVISION**

In re:

HIGHLAND CAPITAL MANAGEMENT, L.P.,¹

Debtor.

HIGHLAND CAPITAL MANAGEMENT, L.P.,

Plaintiff,

VS.

HIGHLAND CAPITAL MANAGEMENT
SERVICES, INC.

Defendant.

§ Chapter 11

§ Case No. 19-34054-sgj11

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§ Adversary Proceeding No.

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¹ The Debtor's last four digits of its taxpayer identification number are (6725). The headquarters and service address for the above-captioned Debtor is 300 Crescent Court, Suite 700, Dallas, TX 75201.

**COMPLAINT FOR (I) BREACH OF CONTRACT
AND (II) TURNOVER OF PROPERTY OF THE DEBTOR'S ESTATE**

Plaintiff, Highland Capital Management, L.P., the above-captioned debtor and debtor-in-possession (the “Debtor”) in the above-captioned chapter 11 case and the plaintiff in the above-captioned adversary proceeding (the “Adversary Proceeding”), by its undersigned counsel, as and for its complaint (the “Complaint”) against defendant, Highland Capital Management Services, Inc. (“HCMS” or “Defendant”), alleges upon knowledge of its own actions and upon information and belief as to other matters as follows:

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. The Debtor brings this action against HCMS as a result of HCMS’s defaults under (i) four demand notes in the aggregate principal amount of \$900,000 and payable upon the Debtor’s demand, and (ii) one term note in the aggregate principal amount of \$20,247,628.02 and payable in the event of default, all executed by HCMS in favor of the Debtor. HCMS has failed to pay amounts due and owing under the notes and the accrued but unpaid interest thereon.

2. Through this Complaint, the Debtor seeks (a) damages from HCMS in an amount equal to (i) the aggregate outstanding principal due under the Notes (as defined below), plus (ii) all accrued and unpaid interest thereon until the date of payment, plus (iii) an amount equal to the Debtor’s costs of collection (including all court costs and reasonable attorneys’ fees and expenses, as provided for in the notes) for HCMS’s breach of its obligations under the Notes, and (b) turnover by HCMS to the Debtor of the foregoing amounts.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

3. This adversary proceeding arises in and relates to the Debtor’s case pending before the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Texas, Dallas Division (the “Court”) under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code.

4. The Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334.

5. This matter is a core proceeding within the meaning of 28 U.S.C. § 157(b), and, pursuant to Rule 7008 of the Bankruptcy Rules, the Debtor consents to the entry of a final order by the Court in the event that it is later determined that the Court, absent consent of the parties, cannot enter final orders or judgments consistent with Article III of the United States Constitution.

6. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409.

THE PARTIES

7. The Debtor is a limited liability partnership formed under the laws of Delaware with a business address at 300 Crescent Court, Suite 700, Dallas, Texas 75201.

8. Upon information and belief, HCMS is a company with offices located in Dallas, Texas, and is incorporated in the state of Delaware.

CASE BACKGROUND

9. On October 16, 2019, the Debtor filed a voluntary petition for relief under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware (the “Delaware Court”), Case No. 19-12239 (CSS) (the “Highland Bankruptcy Case”).

10. On October 29, 2019, the U.S. Trustee in the Delaware Court appointed an Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors (the “Committee”) with the following members: (a) Redeemer Committee of Highland Crusader Fund, (b) Meta-e Discovery, (c) UBS Securities LLC and UBS AG London Branch, and (d) Acis LP and Acis GP.

11. On December 4, 2019, the Delaware Court entered an order transferring venue of the Highland Bankruptcy Case to this Court [Docket No. 186].²

12. The Debtor has continued in the possession of its property and has continued to operate and manage its business as a debtor-in-possession pursuant to sections 1107(a) and 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code. No trustee or examiner has been appointed in this chapter 11 case.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

A. The HCMS Demand Notes

13. HCMS is the maker under a series of demand notes in favor of the Debtor.

14. Specifically, on March 28, 2018, HCMS executed a demand note in favor of the Debtor, as payee, in the original principal amount of \$150,000 (“HCMS’s First Demand Note”). A true and correct copy of HCMS’s First Demand Note is attached hereto as **Exhibit 1**.

15. On June 25, 2018, HCMS executed a demand note in favor of the Debtor, as payee, in the original principal amount of \$200,000 (“HCMS’s Second Demand Note”). A true and correct copy of HCMS’s Second Demand Note is attached hereto as **Exhibit 2**.

16. On May 29, 2019, HCMS executed a demand note in favor of the Debtor, as payee, in the original principal amount of \$400,000 (“HCMS’s Third Demand Note”). A true and correct copy of HCMS’s Third Demand Note is attached hereto as **Exhibit 3**.

17. On June 26, 2019, HCMS executed a demand note in favor of the Debtor, as payee, in the original principal amount of \$150,000 (“HCMS’s Fourth Demand Note,” and collectively, with HCMS’s First Demand Note, HCMS’s Second Demand Note, and HCMS’s Third Demand Note, the “Demand Notes”). A true and correct copy of HCMS’s Fourth Demand Note is attached hereto as **Exhibit 4**.

² All docket numbers refer to the main docket for the Highland Bankruptcy Case maintained by this Court.

18. Section 2 of the Demand Notes provide: “**Payment of Principal and Interest.**

The accrued interest and principal of this Note shall be due and payable on demand of the Payee.”

19. Section 4 of the Demand Notes provides:

Acceleration Upon Default. Failure to pay this Note or any installment hereunder as it becomes due shall, at the election of the holder hereof, without notice, demand, presentment, notice of intent to accelerate, notice of acceleration, or any other notice of any kind which are hereby waived, mature the principal of this Note and all interest then accrued, if any, and the same shall at once become due and payable and subject to those remedies of the holder hereof. No failure or delay on the part of the Payee in exercising any right, power, or privilege hereunder shall operate as a waiver hereof.

20. Section 6 of the Demand Notes provides:

Attorneys’ Fees. If this Note is not paid at maturity (whether by acceleration or otherwise) and is placed in the hands of an attorney for collection, or if it is collected through a bankruptcy court or any other court after maturity, the Maker shall pay, in addition to all other amounts owing hereunder, all actual expenses of collection, all court costs and reasonable attorneys’ fees and expenses incurred by the holder hereof.

B. HCMS’s Defaults under Each Demand Note

21. By letter dated December 3, 2020, the Debtor made demand on HCMS for payment under the Demand Notes by December 11, 2020 (the “**Demand Letter**”). A true and correct copy of the Demand Letter is attached hereto as **Exhibit 5**. The Demand Letter provided:

By this letter, Payee is demanding payment of the accrued interest and principal due and payable on the Notes in the aggregate amount of \$947,519.43, which represents all accrued interest and principal through and including December 11, 2020.

Payment is due on December 11, 2020, and failure to make payment in full on such date will constitute an event of default under the Notes.

Demand Letter (emphasis in the original).

22. Despite the Debtor’s demand, HCMS did not pay all or any portion of the amounts demanded by the Debtor on December 11, 2020.

23. As of December 11, 2020, there was an outstanding principal amount of \$158,776.59 on HCMS's First Demand Note and accrued but unpaid interest in the amount of \$3,257.32, resulting in a total outstanding amount as of that date of \$162,033.91.

24. As of December 11, 2020, there was an outstanding principal balance of \$212,403.37 on HCMS's Second Demand Note and accrued but unpaid interest in the amount of \$2,999.54, resulting in a total outstanding amount as of that date of \$215,402.81.

25. As of December 11, 2020, there was an outstanding principal balance of \$409,586.19 on HCMS's Third Demand Note and accrued but unpaid interest in the amount of \$5,256.62, resulting in a total outstanding amount as of that date of \$414,842.81.

26. As of December 11, 2020, there was an outstanding principal balance of \$153,564.74 on HCMS's Fourth Demand Note and accrued but unpaid interest in the amount of \$1,675.16, resulting in a total outstanding amount as of that date of \$155,239.90.

27. Thus, as of December 11, 2020, the total outstanding principal and accrued but unpaid interest due under the Demand Notes was \$947,519.43. Pursuant to Section 4 of each Demand Note, each Note is in default and is currently due and payable.

C. The HCMS Term Note

28. HCMS is the maker under a term note in favor of the Debtor.

29. Specifically, on May 31, 2017, HCMS executed a term note in favor of the Debtor, as payee, in the original principal amount of \$20,247,628.02 (the "Term Note," and together with the Demand Notes, the "Notes"). A true and correct copy of the Term Note is attached hereto as **Exhibit 6**.

30. Section 2 of the Term Note provides: "**Payment of Principal and Interest**. Principal and interest under this Note shall be due and payable as follows:

2.1 Annual Payment Dates. During the term of this Note, Borrower shall pay the outstanding principal amount of the Note (and all unpaid accrued interest through the date of each such payment) in thirty (30) equal annual payments (the “**Annual Installment**”) until the Note is paid in full. Borrower shall pay the Annual Installment on the 31st day of December of each calendar year during the term of this Note, commencing on the first such date to occur after the date of execution of this note.

2.2 Final Payment Date. The final payment in the aggregate amount of the then outstanding and unpaid Note, together with all accrued and unpaid interest thereon, shall become immediately due and payable in full on December 31, 2047 (the “**Maturity Date**”).

31. Section 3 of the Term Note provides:

Prepayment Allowed: Renegotiation Discretionary. Maker may prepay in whole or in part the unpaid principal or accrued interest of this Note. Any payments on this Note shall be applied first to unpaid accrued interest hereon, and then to unpaid principal hereof.

32. Section 4 of the Term Note provides:

Acceleration Upon Default. Failure to pay this Note or any installment hereunder as it becomes due shall, at the election of the holder hereof, without notice, demand, presentment, notice of intent to accelerate, notice of acceleration, or any other notice of any kind which are hereby waived, mature the principal of this Note and all interest then accrued, if any, and the same shall at once become due and payable and subject to those remedies of the holder hereof. No failure or delay on the part of the Payee in exercising any right, power, or privilege hereunder shall operate as a waiver hereof.

33. Section 6 of the Term Note provides:

Attorneys’ Fees. If this Note is not paid at maturity (whether by acceleration or otherwise) and is placed in the hands of an attorney for collection, or if it is collected through a bankruptcy court or any other court after maturity, the Maker shall pay, in addition to all other amounts owing hereunder, all actual expenses of collection, all court costs and reasonable attorneys’ fees and expenses incurred by the holder hereof.

D. HCMS’s Default under the Term Note

34. HCMS failed to make the payment due under the Term Note on December 31, 2020.

35. By letter dated January 7, 2021, the Debtor made demand on HCMS for immediate payment under the Term Note (the “Second Demand Letter”). A true and correct copy of the Second Demand Letter is attached hereto as **Exhibit 7**. The Second Demand Letter provides:

Because of Maker’s failure to pay, the Note is in default. Pursuant to Section 4 of the Note, all principal, interest, and any other amounts due on the Note are immediately due and payable. The amount due and payable on the Note as of January 8, 2021 is \$6,757,248.95; however, interest continues to accrue under the Note.

The Note is in default, and payment is due immediately.

Second Demand Letter (emphasis in the original).

36. As of January 8, 2021, the total outstanding principal and accrued but unpaid interest under the Term Note was \$6,757,248.95.

37. Pursuant to Section 4 of the Term Note, the Term Note is in default and is currently due and payable.

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF
(For Breach of Contract)

38. The Debtor repeats and re-alleges the allegations in each of the foregoing paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.

39. The Notes are binding and enforceable contracts.

40. HCMS breached each Demand Note by failing to pay all amounts due to the Debtor upon the Debtor’s demand.

41. HCMS breached the Term Note by failing to pay all amounts due to the Debtor upon HCMS’s default and acceleration.

42. Pursuant to each Note, the Debtor is entitled to damages from HCMS in an amount equal to (i) the aggregate outstanding principal due under each Note, plus (ii) all accrued

and unpaid interest thereon until the date of payment, plus (iii) an amount equal to the Debtor's costs of collection (including all court costs and reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses) for HCMS's breach of its obligations under each of the Notes.

43. As a direct and proximate cause of HCMS's breach of each Demand Note, the Debtor has suffered damages in the amount of at least \$947,519.43 as of December 11, 2020, plus an amount equal to all accrued but unpaid interest from that date, plus the Debtor's cost of collection.

44. As a direct and proximate cause of HCMS's breach of the Term Note, the Debtor has suffered damages in the amount of at least \$6,757,248.95 as of January 8, 2021, plus an amount equal to all accrued but unpaid interest from that date, plus the Debtor's cost of collection.

SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF
(Turnover by HCMS Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 542(b))

45. The Debtor repeats and re-alleges the allegations in each of the foregoing paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.

46. HCMS owes the Debtor an amount equal to (i) the aggregate outstanding principal due under each of the Notes, plus (ii) all accrued and unpaid interest thereon until the date of payment, plus (iii) an amount equal to the Debtor's costs of collection (including all court costs and reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses) for HCMS's breach of its obligations under each of the Notes.

47. Each Demand Note is property of the Debtor's estate and the amounts due under each Demand Note are matured and payable upon demand.

48. The Term Note is property of the Debtor's estate and the amounts due under the Term Note are matured and payable upon default and acceleration.

49. The Debtor has made demand for turnover of the amounts due under each of the Notes.

50. As of the date of filing this Complaint, HCMS has not turned over to the Debtor all or any of the amounts due under each of the Notes.

51. The Debtor is entitled to the turnover of all amounts due under each of the Notes.

WHEREFORE, the Debtor prays for judgment as follows:

- (i) On its First Claim for Relief, damages in an amount to be determined at trial, including, among other things, (a) the aggregate outstanding principal due under each Note, plus (b) all accrued and unpaid interest thereon until the date of payment, plus (c) an amount equal to the Debtor's cost of collection (including all court costs and reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses);
- (ii) On its Second Claim for Relief, ordering turnover by HCMS to the Debtor of an amount equal to (a) the aggregate principal due under each Note, plus (b) all accrued and unpaid interest thereon until the date of payment, plus (c) an amount equal to the Debtor's cost of collection (including all court costs and reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses); and
- (iii) Such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

Dated: January 22, 2021.

PACHULSKI STANG ZIEHL & JONES LLP

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